

DIME NOVEL ROUND-UP

A monthly magazine devoted to the collecting, preservation and literature of the old-time dime and nickel novels, libraries and popular story papers.

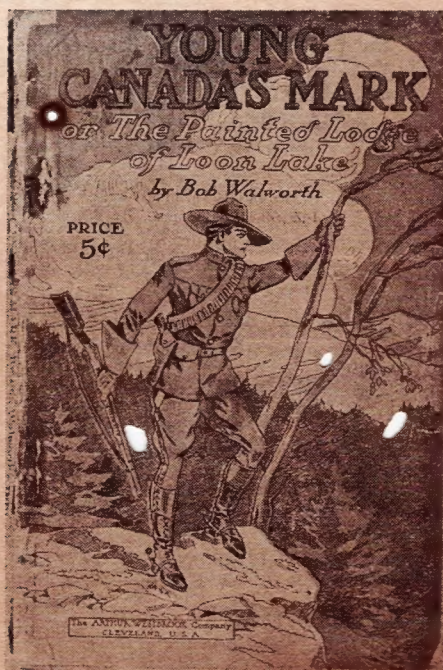
Vol. 35 No. 12

December 15, 1966

Whole No. 411

Now They're Collectors' Items

No. 2 — Oliver Optic, James Otis, Everett T. Tomlinson,
Wm. O. Stoddard, Everett McNeil
by J. Edward Leithead



DIME NOVEL SKETCHES NO. 84

AMERICAN INDIAN SERIES

A colored cover pocket size series published by Arthur Westbrook Co., Cleveland, Ohio. Size $6\frac{3}{4} \times 4\frac{1}{4}$ with 64 pages. Began, February 1910 and issued twice a month until November 1910. Advertised to No. 20, but highest number seen has been No. 13. Stories about Dick Drew's adventures with the Indians started the series and lasted through 8 numbers. Later issues featured stories of the northwest mounted police. Author was given as Bob Walworth, but was in all probability a pseudonym.

Now They're Collectors' Items

No. 2 — Oliver Optic, James Otis, Everett T. Tomlinson,
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by J. Edward Leithead

William T. Adams wrote many a story for boys—and good ones—under the pseudonym Oliver Optic (he had other pen-names, too). I liked best his Civil War stories, especially the two series of six volumes each, *The Blue and the Gray—Afloat: Taken by the Enemy, Within the Enemy's Lines, On the Blockade, Stand by the Union, Fighting for the Right, A Victorious Union; and The Blue and the Gray—On Land: Brother Against Brother, In the Saddle, A Lieutenant at Eighteen, On the Staff, At the Front, An Undivided Union*. I have heard (it may not be true) that Edward Stratemeyer penned this last volume, due to the demise of Adams. The first title in these two series was completed in 1888, and he passed away in 1897. The original edition was issued in a very handsome blue and gray binding, with some gilt trimming, by Lee and Shepard, and well illustrated. Both series sold for \$1.50 per volume, rather high for a boy's book at that time.

Optic had written a Civil War series earlier, *Army and Navy Stories*, while the war was going on, and this sold enormously over a comparatively short period of time. The 6 titles, describing the experiences of youthful heroes in the Union Army and the Union Navy, were *The Soldier Boy, The Sailor Boy, The Young Lieutenant, The Yankee Middy, Fighting Joe, Brave Old Salt*. For an excellent account of William T. Adams and all his works, with much biographical data, see the article by Roy B. Van Devier, "Oliver Optic," in *Dime Novel*

Roundup dated July 15, 1957.

Another writer of war stories, mostly about the American Revolution, was James Otis Kaler. He dropped the surname for his writings. Dana Estes & Co. (succeeded by L. C. Page & Co.), published *The Minute Boys Series*, attractive volumes and well illustrated by A. Burnham Shute and J. W. F. Kennedy, two of which, *The Minute Boys of Lexington and The Minute Boys of Bunker Hill*, were by Edward Stratemeyer, and all the rest by Otis—*The Minute Boys of the Green Mountains, The Minute Boys of the Mohawk Valley, The Minute Boys of the Wyoming Valley, The Minute Boys of South Carolina, The Minute Boys of New York City, The Minute Boys of Long Island, The Minute Boys of Yorktown, The Minute Boys of Philadelphia*. Abounding in historical events and characters, these were well-written tales of the Revolutionary War and Indian-fighting on the frontier of that period. The Boys of Fort Schuyler, Captain Tom, the Privateersman, *The Signal Boys of '75, Under the Liberty Tree and When Israel Putnam served the King* were also from his talented pen and these were not in a series, although, from their titles, it is obvious that all were of similar content, the thirteen American colonies banded together against the British Crown.

The A. L. Burt Co. published a long series of tales by Otis (and at least one by Edward S. Ellis and several by William P. Chipman) covering the whole American War of Independence and even earlier—When

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Washington Served the King, With the Regulators, Amos Dunkel, Oarsman, The Defense of Fort Henry, Morgan, the Jersey Spy, Sarah Dillard's Ride, A Tory Plot, At the Siege of Havana, With the Swamp Fox, With Washington at Monmouth, On the Kentucky Frontier, With Warren at Bunker Hill, A Cruise With Paul Jones, Across the Delaware, A Traitor's Escape, With Lafayette at Yorktown, Corporal Lige's Recruit, The Capture of the Laughing Mary, At the Siege of Detroit, Afloat in Freedom's Cause. At least one Civil War story by Otis was published by Burt, With Grant at Vicksburg, and nearly all these books were illustrated by J. Watson Davis. One exception was A Traitor's Escape (Benedict Arnold), illustrated by George G. White. A few of the stories were told in the first person. Bound in dark green or dark blue cloth with gilt lettering on the spine and a cover design of an old soldier and a young one from an illustration in Corporal Lige's Recruit (which may have varied in different editions), this was a fascinating series, reminding me, in its coverage of Revolutionary War battles, including frontier fights with Indians, of Frank Tousey's Liberty Boys of '76, although unlike Captain Dick Slater and his band of Liberty Boys, who lasted throughout the life of the Weekly (except for casualties, who were replaced) each of the Otis books, or so I believe from the number I read, had an entirely different set of characters. At the Siege of Quebec and With Perry on Lake Erie were two other war tales, the publishers of which I'm not certain of, but I'll hazard a guess the first title was on the list of the Penn Publishing Co.

But the war story with historical background wasn't the only type written by James Otis, though I think he was at his best with them. Probably one of his best-known books, printed many times by Harpers, was Toby Tyler, or, Ten Weeks With a Circus. A. L. Burt issued these titles: The Castaways, Wrecked on Spider Island, The Search for the Silver City, A

Runaway Brig, The Treasure Finders, Jack, the Hunchback; and David McKay these titles: Chased Through Norway, Inland Waterways, Unprovoked Mutiny, Wheeling for Fortune, Reuben Green's Adventures at Yale. This is by no means a complete list of his writings not to be classified as war tales.

While on the subject of Revolutionary War stories is a good time to speak of the very fine series of them written by Dr. Everett T. Tomlinson. The Blue and Buff Series—A Prisoner in Buff, Old Fort Schuyler, In the Wyoming Valley—were among his earliest. Then the War of the Revolution Series, handsome volumes, illustrated by Charles Copeland, published by W. A. Wilde Co.—Three Colonial Boys, Three Young Continentals, Washington's Young Aids, Two Young Patriots. Another volume issued separately by Wilde Co., with Copeland's fine illustrations, was In the Camp of Cornwallis. It really belonged to the War of the Revolution Series, and when these books were reprinted by Grosset & Dunlap, they included this title, making the series five in number, with a striking and appropriate uniform cover design, but lacking a few, possibly two or three, of the Copeland illustrations.

Later on, between 1903 and 1906, W. A. Wilde Co. published four Tomlinson books relating to the French and Indian War—With Flintlock and Fife, The Fort in the Forest, A Soldier of the Wilderness, The Young Rangers. These were called The Colonial Series and reprinted by Grosset & Dunlap. In fact, the G. & D. cover design for this set and the War of the Revolution Series were more attractive than the cover designs of the original Wilde editions.

A long and important series of Tomlinson's Revolutionary War tales was published by Houghton Mifflin Co. in handsome bindings, each with a different cover design and well illustrated. After the peak of their popularity was past, these same titles were reprinted by H. M. Co. in a cheaper, blue cloth-bound edition,

priced at \$1.00. Some of the illustrations were left out, and I believe Grosset & Dunlap reprinted a few of the titles. I will have to list them at random, not knowing which came first: The Boys of Old Monmouth, A Jersey Boy in the Revolution, In the Hands of the Redcoats, Under Colonial Colors, A Lieutenant Under Washington, The Rider of the Black Horse, The Red Chief, Marching Against the Iroquois, The Campfire of Mad Anthony, Mad Anthony's Young Scout, Light Horse Harry's Legion, The Champion of the Regiment, The Mystery of the Ramapo Pass.

Several Civil War stories by him were published under the Houghton Mifflin imprint: The Young Sharpshooter, The Young Sharpshooter at Antietam, and Prisoners of War; also, The Young Minute Man of 1812, the Ward Hill series of school stories, and Four Boys in the Yellowstone, Four Boys in the Yosemite, Camping on the St. Lawrence.

Dr. Tomlinson wrote one of the few series covering the War of 1812 that I know of, and published by Lee and Shepard: The Search for Andrew Field, The Boy Soldiers of 1812, The Boy Officers of 1812, Tecumseh's Young Braves, Guarding the Border, The Boys With Old Hickory, The Boy Sailors of 1812. All of these books were illustrated, but some had exceptionally good ones by an artist very popular then as an illustrator, particularly boys' books. His last name was Wood, and that is all I can remember. Tomlinson started a War for the Union Series for Lee and Shepard (maybe Lothrop, Lee and Shepard by then), the first two volumes being For the Stars and Stripes and The Young Blockaders. I'm not sure there were any more in the series.

The Pioneer Scout Series, published by Doubleday, Page & Co., had at least two titles by Tomlinson, Scouting With Daniel Boone and Scouting With Kit Carson. I believe there were others by him in this series. D. Appleton & Co. published The Spy of Saratoga, The Mysterious Rifleman,

Trail of the Mohawk Chief, Scouting With Mad Anthony, Scouting on the Old Frontier. Dr. Tomlinson had a son Paul, who wrote books of a similar type.

A favorite series of mine in the old days were the stories about Kit Carey, by none other than Col. Prentiss Ingraham under the Street & Smith stock pen-name "Lieutenant Lionel Lounsberry," used by several boys' book authors. In these tales, besides young Carey, a border boy who rose to be a captain in the 7th Cavalry on the Western frontier, also appeared Buffalo Bill and Dr. Frank Powell ("White Beaver"). It all started in Cadet Kit Carey, or, The Young Soldier's Legacy, where Kit is sent to be educated at West Point as a reward for saving someone from an Indian ambush, if my memory's working right. Maybe the legacy mentioned had something to do with it—I'm hazy on this point. Anyway, Kit is still at the Point in number two of the series, Kit Carey's Protege, or, The West Point Conspiracy. He graduates with high honors and is sent to a cavalry outpost in Sioux and Cheyenne country (where Col. Ingraham was quite at home, and with the U. S. Cavalry, also), and Kit, as second lieutenant, begins his military career, campaigning against Indians and outlaws in Ingraham's best style, in Lieutenant Carey's Luck. This I remember: Kit replaced the driver of the stagecoach bringing him back to the country of his boyhood, poured leather into the four-in-hand and drove like mad through an ambush of Dandy Dan's outlaw gang. He was latter present at the attempted arrest and death of Sitting Bull by Indian police in Captain Carey of the Gallant 7th, or, Fighting the Indians at Pine Ridge. This book and the series reach a climax at the Battle of Wounded Knee, in which Captain Carey takes part.

Ingraham could really put life in his cavalymen and scouts and Indians and describe a cavalry-Indian fight or one with outlaws in a graphic and authoritative manner. He under-

stood things military, as not too many authors did, often using the names and rank of real officers in the frontier West; and, after all, he had himself been a soldier. He must have liked Kit Carey, making him so real that Kit and some of his cavalry feats still remain in my memory.

These stories were originally serialized in Street & Smith's "Good News" (you will find them listed in Captain Chester G. Mayo's excellent bibliographic listing of that story paper), later reprinted in the paperback Medal Library, and the series was published by David McKay in a very attractive cloth-bound edition, with cover design of a young cavalry officer. Some of the illustrations were by A. Berghaus, who did covers for early issues of Frank Tousey's color cover novels, and some black-and-white libraries and story papers.

And there were three cowboy stories Ingraham could have written and possibly did under the "Lounsberry" nom.—Rob Ranger's Mine, or, The Boy Who Got There, Rob Ranger, the Young Ranchman, or, Going It Alone at Lost River, Rob Ranger's Cowboy Days, or, The Young Ranchman of the Big Horn, which, besides being published as clothbound books by McKay, also appeared in *Brave and Bold Weekly* as #207, Bart Benner's Mine, #208, The Young Ranchman, #209, Bart Benner's Cowboy Days.

So many cloth-bound books published by David McKay had appeared in Street & Smith's Medal Library as to indicate some kind of tie-up there. Ralph P. Smith explains this in his good and comprehensive article, "Medal and New Medal Libraries," published in the October 1940 issue of *Dime Novel Roundup*. He says, in part:

"The early numbers (of Medal Library) are full of Oliver Optic, James Otis, G. A. Henty, Edward S. Ellis, Horatio Alger and all the popular writers of the day.

"There was still considerable onus on the part of parents for the paper-covered novel. Perhaps to prove their

point that the books were equal to those in hard covers, they made some arrangement with a publishing house in Philadelphia to print some of their titles in cloth. McKay issued about 150 titles of the Medal Library in hard covers at 50 cents per copy, identical with Medal Library numbers. This is exactly opposite the usual procedure; generally cheaper editions follow the early editions, but in this case they took cheap editions and jumped the price five times, simply by improving the paper and the binding."

William O. Stoddard wrote many good boys' books, among them *The Spy of Yorktown*, *The Red Patriot*, *Little Smoke*, *A Story of the Sioux Indians*, *On the Old Frontier*, or, *The Last Raid of the Iroquois*, *The Fight for the Valley* (the American Revolution), *The Boy Lincoln*, *With the Black Prince*, *Crowded Out o' Crofield*, *The Battle of New York*, *A Narrative of the Civil War*, all published by D. Appleton & Co. in fine editions—illustrations, paper and binding—and also, in the case of several titles, cheaper ones. The J. B. Lippincott Co. published his *The Lost Gold of the Montezumas*, *A Story of the Alamo*, which ranks with the best, splendidly illustrated by Charles H. Stephens. There were others: *The Talking Leaves*, *Oumley's Post*, *A Story of the Pawnee Trail*, illustrated by Stephens, *Jack Morgan*, *a Boy of 1812*, *The Red Mustang*, *A Story of the Mexican Border*.

Everett McNeil was the author of several exceptionally fine historical tales for boys, published by E. P. Dutton & Co. and well illustrated (boys wouldn't have thought much of a book without "pictures" in those days, although the Hurst & Co. series of *Algers*, priced at 35 or 40 cents per volume, had no illustrations and certainly sold well enough without them): *In Texas With Davy Crockett*, *A Story of the Texas War of Independence* (first published in 1908, it ran through seven editions), *With Kit Carson in the Rockies*, *A Tale of the Beaver Country* (first published

in 1909, seven editions were printed), *Fighting With Fremont, A Tale of the Conquest of California*, *Daniel Du Luth, or, Adventuring on the Great Lakes*, *The Boy Forty-niners*. Two more good ones, but not about historical characters, were *The Hermit of the Culebra Mountains*, or, *The Adventures of Two Schoolboys in the Far West*, and *The Lost Treasure Cave*, or, *Adventures With the Cowboys of Colorado*. Both of these books on the E. P. Dutton & Co. list and illustrated by Wm. M. Cary.

The End

GUSTAVE AIMARD (OLIVER GLOUX)

By George Froncal

Oliver Gloux said Gustave Aimard is born in Paris, le 13th of September 1818. When he was a very young boy, he served on a boat as cabin-boy and traveled in the Atlantic near the South of America. He traveled during ten years. He went also in Turkey and was there in the troubles of war and conspiracies. He returned to Paris in 1848, and became an officer in the Garde Mobile. After the famous days of June, he went to America and contacted the Comte de Raousset-Boulbon who tried to make in Sonora an independent country. The Comte de Raousset-Boulbon was shot, but Olivier Gloux escaped and returned to France. When he was back in Paris, he started to write adventure books taking inspiration in his souvenirs. He published novels in daily newspapers like "La Presse," "Le Moniteur" and "La Liberté." His books presented a new fashion of adventure stories and Gustave Aimard was called the new Fenimore Cooper.

During the Prussian War in 1870-1871, he organized a group of irregular soldiers as underground with some workers of the Press and journalists. He fought in the famous battle of Le Bourget.

After the war he returned to the literature, but with not so big success. He wrote a play with Amédée

Rollinat "Les Filibustiers de la Sonora" which was played in the "Theatre de la Porte Saint Martin" but with very little success.

At the end of his life, he became lunatic and he died the 20th of June 1883 in the Asileum of Sainte Anne in Paris.

Gustave Aimard wrote not 25 novels as you say in the Round Up of October, but more than 52. He was published first by Geoffroy, Marpon and at the beginning of this century the most important publisher (popular books) Arthème Fayard made a special "Collection Gustave Aimard." This collection had 52 titles and was with a front page with colors with a drawing of Georges Conrad. The price very cheap, was only 65 centimes. The story is every time very long, about 400 pages and 16,000 lines of 50 signs. The style is hard to be read. At this time the writer was making long descriptions. When they introduced the heroes during 3 pages they told how he was and all about his clothes. When he was crossing a forest, during 2 pages was the description of this forest with all the different kinds of trees. Maybe what I say is exaggerated but it gives an idea of the style. Gustave Aimard told in his books of his own souvenirs and the stories sound true. The part of the action is Guyana, Mexico, and part of the States like New Mexico, Arizona, Arkansas and Sonora in California. Certainly the books of Gustave Aimard made a good propaganda for the U. S. A. and gave western dreams to the young French boys.

Now French collectors are looking for original editions of Gustave Aimard's books. They are rare and difficult to be found in the first edition.

FOR SALE

75 copies of *Golden Hours* in good readable condition, bound 15 copies per cover at 50c per copy.

Helen Dutcher

Box 1101, Long Beach, Calif. 90801

DIME NOVEL COLLECTORS BOOK SHELF

PAWNEE BILL, A Biography of Major Gordon W. Lillie. White Chief of the Pawnees, Wild West Showman, Last of the Land Boomers by Glenn Shirley. University of Nebraska Press Lincoln, Nebraska. 1958, 256 p. paper covers. \$1.73. An excellent biography of Pawnee Bill, profusely illustrated including a number of dime novel covers featuring Pawnee Bill. The appended list of dime novels about Pawnee Bill is fragmentary. Since the book was written, Mr. Shirley has become a member of the Roundup and I'm sure the list will be expanded.

NEWS NOTES

Mr. Forrest Campbell has an article in the November 1966 issue of LITERARY SKETCHES, entitled HORATIO ALGER. It is well written and gives a short biography of Alger. LITERARY SKETCHES is published monthly at 707 Monumental St., Williamsburg, Va. 23185. Subscription is \$1.00 per year.

Capt. Chester G. Mayo has just published a Genealogical and Biographical Record of the Descendants

of John Mayo of Roxbury, Massachusetts, 1630-1688. Capt. Mayo has been researching material for this genealogical study for 58 years. For those interested, the book is available at \$20.00 from Capt. Mayo, 2724 34th St., N. W., Washington, D. C. 20008.

Dr. W. D. Chesney of 1321 Sherman St., Janesville, Wis. 53545, would like to buy a bound volume of Youths Companion for 1880. Can anyone supply him. Maybe a set of loose numbers would do if a bound volume cannot be found.

EXCERPTS FROM LETTERS TO THE EDITORS

Dear Ed: Did you know that they have started to issue DOC SAVAGE in comic books. I just picked up a copy of No. 1 at the newsstand. It is published by K. K. Publications, North Road, Poughkeepsie, N. Y., 12602. No. 1 is titled Doc Savage, the Thousand Headed Man. I also picked up a copy of AMERICAN FARM AND HOME ALMANAC 1967 which has several nice prints of the old dime novels, Pluck and Luck, Nick Carter, Buffalo Bill, etc. There is also a short article entitled "AD-

MEMBERSHIP CHANGES

4. George French, Orchard Drive, Towaco, N. J. 07082 (New address)
252. Edward Reynolds, 47 High St., Thorndike, Mass. 01079 (Correction in spelling of last name)
190. Leo F. Moore, 16412 Gentry Lane, Huntington Beach, Calif. 92647 (New address)
255. John T. Dizer, Jr., R. D. #1 Box 611, Utica, N. Y. 13502 (New member)
256. Mrs. Helen Dutcher, P. O. Box 1101, Long Beach, Calif. 90801 (New mem.)
147. Edward G. Levy, Pleasant Hill Road, Woodbridge, Conn. 06525 (New add.)
257. Dr. John W. Machen, 6331 Belair Road, Baltimore, Md. 21206

I have a few of the following left for Sale:

James Boys Weekly, Jack Harkaway stories, Detective Library containing James Boys stories, Frank Reade stories, and paper bound books about the James Boys.

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So. Grafton, Mass. 01560

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HAPPY DAYS

Bibliographic Listing of Happy Days Now Ready

Complete listings of all stories appearing in Frank Tousey's famous story paper, Happy Days is now ready. The listing is separated into three parts. The first part lists the stories in chronological order of appearance with complete reprinting information; the second part lists the stories under authorship and the third lists the stories in alphabetical order. Reproduced by the ditto process with a printed illustrated cover. 154 pages. \$4.00.

Still available

2	Golden Hours by Donald L. Steinhauer. Illus.	1.00
4	Beadles Frontier Series, by Denis R. Rogers. Illus.	.50
5	Frank Leslie's Boys of America, by J. P. Guinon. Illus.	.50
6	The Hearthstone, by Denis R. Rogers. Ill.	.50
7	Frank Leslie's Boys' and Girls' Weekly, by J. P. Guinon. Illus.	1.00
8	Bright Days, by Capt. C. G. Mayo. Illus.	.50
9	Golden Hours (English Edition), by Denis R. Rogers	.50
10	Street & Smith's Literary Album, by Capt. C. G. Mayo. Illus.	.50
11	Saturday Night, by Denis R. Rogers. Illus.	2.00
12	Wide Awake Library, by Edward T. LeBlanc (Illustrated cover)	2.00
13	Boys of New York, by Edward T. LeBlanc (Illus.)	2.00
14	Young Men of America, by Edward T. LeBlanc (Illus.)	2.00
15	Golden Weekly, by Edward T. LeBlanc	1.00

Issued in Printed Booklet form, fully illustrated

These are the same size and stock used as in printing the Roundup.

1	Golden Days, by Donald L. Steinhauer	2.00
2	Munro's Ten Cent Novels, by Denis R. Rogers	2.00
3	Nickel Library, by Albert Johannsen	2.00
4	Good News, Army and Navy Weekly, Half Holiday, Boys Holiday and The Holiday, by Capt. C. G. Mayo	2.00

Edward T. LeBlanc, Publisher, 87 School St., Fall River, Mass.